



Amended Claims with Markings Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

37. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 9 or [,] 14,[ 21, 29 or 30,] characterized in that the sample is introduced onto the top of the [membrane or] surface.
38. (amended) A process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or19,[ 28, 29, or 30,] characterized in that the immobilized nucleic acids are subjected to a washing step which takes place with at least one washing buffer after the immobilization and before any release steps.
40. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or19,[ 28, or 29,] characterized in that an aqueous salt or buffer solution is used to release the nucleic acids.
41. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or19,[ 28, or 29,] characterized in that water is used to release the nucleic acids.
42. (amended) The process according to one of Claims 1, 9, or 14,[ 21, 29, or 30,] characterized in that the application [introduction] and immobilization of the nucleic acids includes the following steps:
- [(a)(1)] mixing at least one nucleic acid-containing sample with an immobilization buffer;
  - [(a)(2)] applying said at least one nucleic acid-containing sample with the immobilization buffer to the surface or membrane; and
  - [(a)(3)] passing the liquid components through the surface in essentially the same direction they were added.
43. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19,[ 28, 29 or 30,] characterized in that at least one of the steps is carried out by an automatic device, in a fully automatic manner.
46. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19,[ 28, 29, or 30,] characterized in that aqueous salt solutions of metal and/or ammonium cations with mineral acids are used to immobilize the nucleic acids.

49. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19, [ 28, 29, or 30,] characterized in that aqueous solutions of salts of mono or polybasic or polyfunctional organic acids with alkaline or alkaline-earth metals are used to immobilize the nucleic acids.

54. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19, [ 28, 29, or 30,] characterized in that hydroxy-functional compounds of aliphatic or acyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbons are used for the immobilization of the nucleic acids.

58. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19, [ 28, 29, or 30,] characterized in that a phenol or polyphenol is used for the immobilization of the nucleic acids.

59. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 1, 9, or 19, [ 28, 29, or 30,] wherein at least one chaotropic agent is used for the immobilization of the nucleic acids.

64. (amended) The process according to Claim 61 [any one of the Claims 61 to 63], wherein the chaotropic agent is selected from an aqueous solution of one or more of sodium perchlorate, guanidinium hydrochloride, guanidinium isothiocyanate, sodium iodide and potassium iodide.

66. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 9, 14, or 19, [ 21, 28, or 29,] characterized in that the surface is a membrane.

69. (amended) The process according to Claim 67 [or 68], characterized in that the membrane is a hydrophilic membrane with a hydrophobic surface.

70. (amended) The process according to Claim 67 [or 68], characterized in that the membrane is made of nylon, a polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polycarbonate, polypropylene, polyacrylate, acrylic copolymer, polyurethane, polyamide, polyvinylchloride, polyfluorocarbonate, polytetrafluoro-ethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyethylene-tetrafluoro-ethylene-copolymerisate, a polyethylene-chlorotrifluoro-ethylene-copolymerisate, cellulose acetate, nitrocellulose,

polybenzimidazole, polyimide, polyacrylnitrile, polyacrylnitrile-copolymer, cellulose-mix ester, cellulose nitrate, or polyphenylene sulfide.

75. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 9, 14, or 19, [ 21, 28, or 29,] characterized in that the membrane has a pore diameter of 0.001 to 50 micrometer.

76. (amended) The process according to any one of Claims 9, 14, or 19, [ 21, 28, or 29,] characterized in that the surface is a hydrophobic fleece.

121. (new) The process according to Claim 62, wherein the chaotropic agent is selected from an aqueous solution of one or more of sodium perchlorate, guanidinium hydrochloride, guanidinium isothiocyanate, sodium iodide and potassium iodide.

122. (new) The process according to Claim 63, wherein the chaotropic agent is selected from an aqueous solution of one or more of sodium perchlorate, guanidinium hydrochloride, guanidinium isothiocyanate, sodium iodide and potassium iodide.

123. (new) The process according to Claim 68, characterized in that the membrane is a hydrophilic membrane with a hydrophobic surface.

124. (new) The process according to Claim 68, characterized in that the membrane is made of nylon, a polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polycarbonate, polypropylene, polyacrylate, acrylic copolymer, polyurethane, polyamide, polyvinylchloride, polyfluorocarbonate, poly-tetrafluoro-ethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyethylene-tetrafluoro-ethylene-copolymerisate, a polyethylene-chlorotrifluoro-ethylene-copolymerisate, cellulose acetate, nitrocellulose, polybenzimidazole, polyimide, polyacrylnitrile, polyacrylnitrile-copolymer, cellulose-mix ester, cellulose nitrate, or polyphenylene sulfide.